Center for Biopolymers at Interfaces

Distinguished Center

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Established as a center in 1986, this is an internationally recognized industrial membership center whose focus is the study of interfacial interactions between biological and artificial materials. Knowledge of these interactions has provided valuable insight into the biocompatability of implant materials. Research is being applied to the areas of artificial organ and implant production, production of contact lenses and diagnostic devices and the development of numerous industrial products. Received Distinguished Center status in 1991.

Overview

Current State Contract	-
Matching Funds	$822,395
Cumulative	$4,232,182
Center Related Jobs	30
Industry Jobs Created	10
Benefiting Utah Companies	4
Moved	1
Spinoff Companies	1
Patents Applied	12
Patents Issued	1
License Agreements	--

Technologies

*Biosensors

*Purification of materials

*Diagnostics

*Artificial organ and implant production

*Contact lenses and diagnostic devices

*Researching surface interactions to assist the following industries:

- Food processing
- Medical devices
- Scientific instruments
- Pharmaceuticals
- Cosmetics

*Studying the interaction of proteins and nucleic acids with synthetic surfaces

*Develop methods for monitoring the status (concentration/activity) of proteins absorbed or bound to surfaces

Status

*4 Utah companies are current center members

*23 member organizations representing the largest biomedical companies in the world

*Semi-annual meetings hosted in Salt Lake City bring attendees from around the country

*12-15 projects funded annually after internal reviews are conducted

*Interdisciplinary approach; member scientists come from 4 different colleges representing eight academic departments

*12 patents pending; 1 disclosure filed

*Consortia of faculty members and students from U of U College of Engineering, Science, Pharmacy and School of Medicine as well as faculty from BYU.

Economic Impact

*Service labs are offering specialized analysis services to outside companies and organizations on a fee basis

*New company formed: Protein Solutions, Inc.

*Silicon Graphics, Inc. moved to Utah as a result of center technology (7 employees)

*Center is working vigorously to help move a member company here or to expand an existing Utah company using CBI technologies

*Significant fraction of the $19.8 million allocated from federal sources for the soon to be built Biomedical Polymers Building